

Regional AGENDA

METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

August 1999

Revised regional sewage plan will return to council for final approval

Even though the Metropolitan King County Council took an important vote in June on the future of sewage treatment in the Puget Sound, there are still some key actions yet to come.

For more than five years, the county has been exploring the best options to upgrade and expand the regional wastewater treatment system. Studies show that the current system cannot keep pace with the region's growth.

Last year, the council's Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) spent more than six months reviewing the county executive's preferred wastewater treatment plan and three alternatives. The recommendations of the RWQC were then forwarded to the full council in December. The council conducted an in-depth review of the plan before voting on an amended version in June.

The amended plan approved by a majority of the council includes the

following features:

- A third treatment plant to be built in north King County or south Snohomish County;
- A second pipeline from Kenmore to Matthews Beach to provide additional capacity for wastewater flow to reduce the risk of polluting Lake Washington during major storms;
- An accelerated program to reduce groundwater infiltration and inflow, which makes up about 75 percent of the waste stream;
- An increase in water-quality standards for effluent discharge;
- A scientifically rigorous water and biosolid-quality control program;
- New and improved odor-control standards;
- A water reuse program prioritizing the Ballard locks;
- Implementation of public education for water conservation;
- An expanded water-quality monitoring program; and
- An independent, scientific and comprehensive review conducted

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Metropolitan King County Council • Room 1200 King County Courthouse • 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-3272

District 1 [Maggi Fimia](#) 296-1001
District 2 [Cynthia Sullivan](#) 296-1002
District 3 [Louise Miller](#) 296-1003
District 4 [Larry Phillips](#) 296-1004
District 5 [Dwight Pelz](#) 296-1005

District 6 [Rob McKenna](#) 296-1006
District 7 [Pete von Reichbauer](#) 296-1007
District 8 [Greg Nickels](#) 296-1008
District 9 [Kent Pullen](#) 296-1009
District 10 [Larry Gossett](#) 296-1010

District 11 [Jane Hague](#) 296-1011
District 12 [Brian Derdowski](#) 296-1012
District 13 [Chris Vance](#) 296-1013
General Phone 296-1000
TTY / TDD 296-1024

Local salmon restoration efforts play key role in species recovery

Metropolitan King County Councilmembers are backing a plan in which volunteer groups will be working to restore local salmon runs using more than \$4.3 million in proposed federal grants. U.S. Senator Slade Gorton recently announced his plans to set aside the funding for Washington state salmon recovery efforts, as well as Washington state hatchery reforms.

“The recovery of chinook salmon in Puget Sound will require actions big and small,” said Council Chair



**Council chair
Louise Miller**

Louise Miller. “Sen. Gorton, in particular, has played a vital role in every aspect of the salmon recovery effort. By calling for federal funding for local groups and projects, he has raised the bar.”

Under the plan, local groups such as Long Live the Kings, would receive federal money through a private, non-profit foundation for a variety of salmon recovery projects including conservation and restoration of stream habitat, upland and wetland areas, and fish passage projects. One example is the fish passage project at the Ballard Locks. The project is designed to keep juvenile salmon out of the lock culverts and chambers, ensure an alternative passage for salmon through the locks, and ensure less dangerous passage for fish that continue to pass through the locks. The project is expected to improve juvenile salmon survival rates by at least 20 percent.

“The Ballard Locks present a huge hazard for salmon migrating out to sea,” said Councilmember Larry

Phillips, who represents Ballard. “Improving the locks so more salmon survive provides an important step toward reaching a stronger, more sustainable fishery. If we want to secure healthier runs for both commercial and recreational fishing, we must take actions like this to improve the ability of salmon to survive.”

As a co-sponsor of the Lake Washington salmon restoration project, King County has already been working with various volunteer organizations. These conservation projects are located in the Lake Washington watershed as well as on all the major rivers in the county. The new funding will allow for additional cooperative projects between King County and volunteer organizations working to restore salmon runs throughout the region.

“The federal funding of local salmon enhancement groups will play an integral role in the ultimate success or failure of salmon restoration efforts in the

Puget Sound region,” said Councilmember Chris Vance. “The combination of local expertise and federal support will really make a difference.”



Councilmembers Larry Phillips (right) and Chris Vance (center right) joined Senator Slade Gorton (center left) and Joy Huber of River CPR (left) at the announcement of federal grants for Washington state salmon recovery efforts.

Civic TV moves to improve public access to local government



King County Civic Television (CTV) has moved to improve access.

Residents in many areas of King County who subscribe to TCI Cable will now find CTV on channel 22, a switch from channel 59. Bothell and Woodinville residents will find CTV televised on channel 55.

The new TCI channel lineup clusters CTV with other government-access channels – a move that should improve station identity and public access to local,

state, and federal governments. Following is the new government channel line-up:

Channel 21	City Government
Channel 22	King County Civic Television (CTV)
Channel 23	TVW, Washington State Legislature
Channel 24	C-Span 1
Channel 25	C-Span 2

CTV was recently added to the TCI line-up in south

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Restoration efforts underway at local WWI memorial

Local officials and community activists joined together in Burien recently to infuse new life into an old World War I memorial - Des Moines Memorial Drive.

Renovation plans for the memorial were announced at the Sunnydale School, the site of the original memorial dedication in 1921.

The 11-mile stretch of road winds through four jurisdictions – King County, SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines, and is the nation's only World War I Memorial Drive. Approximately 1,800 elm trees were originally planted along the road as a living memorial to the war's veterans. Unfortunately, over the years, many of the trees became diseased, were over pruned, or were cleared for utility installation. Today, only 300 of the original trees remain. Several local officials, concerned citizens, and members of the Highline Historical Society recognized the need for the restoration of the memorial and took action by forming the Des Moines Memorial Drive Committee.

Metropolitan King County Councilmember Chris Vance played an integral role in the formation of the committee and attended the ceremony. "While a final plan is not yet in place, the restoration effort is historic," said Vance. "This drive, the only one of its kind in the United States, is a memorial to those who gave their lives so that we could enjoy the freedoms we have today. Leaving this shrine in disrepair is disrespectful to those it memorializes, and that is not an option."

At the ceremony, Vance and the other attendees were honored by the presence of 105-year-old Pet Crump, a WWI veteran. Crump, who lives in Issaquah, is one of just a few thousand WWI vets still living in the United States.

Senator Julia Patterson, from SeaTac, helped secure \$50,000 in state funding for the improvements. The Highline Historical Society will receive \$25,000 next year and an additional \$25,000 in 2001 for the project. "It is critical that we do everything in our power to remember the sacrifices others before us have made," said Patterson. "While this funding may not be enough to complete the project, it gives us a good start. I will continue to pursue additional avenues to help fund this landmark."

The Des Moines Memorial Drive Committee plans to replant all 1,800 trees over the next several years. However, due to problems the original trees suffered with disease, committee members will replant with a variety other than elm. Other ideas for the restoration effort include additional signage along the road to inform passing motorists of the memorial, and road and sidewalk improvements

that will make the memorial more accessible.

Vance added, "Soon after the original dedication ceremony for the memorial, then Washington State Lieut. Gov. W.J. Coyle said, '...These thousand living monuments, forming a great canopy over the highway, will keep fresh the memory of those who enlisted from the state of Washington and gave their lives for their country's cause.' This restoration effort will ensure that those thoughts and words hold true."



King County Councilman Chris Vance and SeaTac Major Terry Anderson present WWI veteran Pet Crump with a living memorial during the re-dedication of the Des Moines Memorial Drive.

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Revised sewage plan will return to council for final approval continued

every three years using technical and economic criteria to evaluate the assumptions on which the 30-year regional plan is based.

The council's plan has been returned to the RWQC for reconsideration of amendments, a step that is required by the county's charter. The RWQC continues to differ with the council's position on two main points: the necessity of the

Kenmore pipeline and whether the new hook-up "capacity charge" should be increased above the cap set now by state law.

The RWQC is due to finish its review in the next few months and return the plan to the council for final approval. Once the council takes a final vote, the plan will be forwarded to the county executive for his approval.

What we're doing . . .

The King County Council welcomed a delegation on June 28th, from its sister County, Kaohsiung County in Taiwan. Pictured from left to right are Councilmembers



Dwight Pelz, Pete von Reichbauer, County Magistrate Yu, Council Chair Louise Miller, Frank Liu, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Culture Office, Councilmember Kent Pullen and Councilmember Maggi Fimia.

CTV moves to improve public access continued

King County, including Kent, Auburn, and several unincorporated areas. In addition, the station will be offered to all unincorporated King County residents by March of 2000.

The station has moved to bring King County government access to residents in several incorporated areas as well. In the cities of Bellevue and Redmond for example, all Metropolitan King County Council meetings are shown by tape delay on each city's government access station. The Bellevue City Channel is 28 and the Redmond City Channel is 27.

Customers of Summit Cablevision in Seattle can also view CTV. Summit offers the station on either channel 72 or 80. Those residents who use a cable box will find CTV on channel 80, while those who have cable direct to their television will find CTV on channel 72.

Your local cable operator can help you determine on which channel CTV airs. CTV regularly airs Metropolitan King County Council and committee meetings, council and King County Executive news conferences, and special programs. The daily program schedule for CTV is available on the Internet at www.metrokc.gov/ctv/ or call 206-296-0300.